

RESCISSIONS VETO IRONIC

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, how ironic.

What did a President who campaigned on reducing Government spending choose as his first veto? He chose to veto a bill that reduces Government spending. It's no wonder that people in America are confused about where the administration wants to take this country.

This bill provides \$9 billion in real deficit reduction. It takes a first step to balancing the budget—which will lower interest rates, stimulate job growth and provide a sound future for our children.

But the President would rather play politics.

Contrary to what the Democrats are claiming, this bill does not hurt education. Programs such as Head Start, Education for the Disadvantaged and Student Financial Assistance aren't even touched. Even where spending is slightly reduced, programs are still being funded at higher levels than last year.

When are the Democrats and the President going to stop playing politics and come to the table with real alternatives?

If they don't want to be part of the solution, then let them stop being part of the problem.

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DO WE CHOOSE PORK OR PEOPLE?

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Clinton vetoed a bad bill proposed by the Republican leadership that would have cut crucial education and job training programs for our young people, in order to fund wasteful pork projects. As that legislation comes back to Congress, it is time to reassess our priorities. Do we choose pork or people?

Democratic priorities are clear. We want to work to make a better future for America's working families. Education and job training help to give our young people the tools they need to succeed in life. They should not be sacrificed for another multimillion-dollar courthouse or another needless tax giveaway to the wealthy.

I believe that Democrats and Republicans can work together to fashion a package of cuts that will preserve crucial education and job training programs and achieve deficit reduction. The bill that the President vetoed yesterday failed on both counts, and, therefore, failed America's working families. The President was right to veto it.

SUPPORT URGED FOR PASSAGE OF THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today the House will complete debate and vote on one of the most important bills affecting the operations of our foreign affairs agencies and programs since the cold war.

H.R. 1561—the American Overseas Interests Act eliminates three Federal agencies—cuts spending by \$3 billion over 2 years—and by a total of \$21 billion over the 7-year glide path to a balanced budget.

It is a major step in the direction of downsizing and streamlining the Federal Government, as well as reducing the deficit.

H.R. 1561 also is about ensuring that our Nation continues as a world leader by targeting scarce resources toward priorities that serve American interests. H.R. 1561 is about supporting peace and stability in the Middle East and getting nuclear weapons out of Russia and the other former Soviet states.

H.R. 1561 has been endorsed by former Secretaries of State Jim Baker, Alexander Haig, Henry Kissinger, and Larry Eagleburger. Accordingly, on final passage, I urge our colleagues to join in supporting this highly important measure.

A GOOD NEWS MORNING

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, today, for the first time in a long time, Americans woke up to a good news morning. First, Mickey Mantle, my childhood hero and that of many of my generation, is now on the road to recovery.

Second, Capt. Scott O'Grady, a young man who could become a hero to a new generation of Americans, was rescued from Bosnia by a stalwart group of Americans. Captain O'Grady braved 5 days in hostile territory and waited for just the right moment to send his radio signal. A team of 40 aircraft kept the Serbs at bay while, in a spectacular rescue, helicopter gunships rescued Captain O'Grady.

Today, Mr. Speaker, all Americans, from the President down to the average person on the street, can take justifiable pride in the bravery of Captain O'Grady and his Marine rescuers.

To Captain O'Grady and to Mickey Mantle, good luck and Godspeed.

CELEBRATING THE DAY OF PORTUGAL

(Mr. BLUTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the millions of Portuguese-Americans across our Nation by calling attention to the day of Portugal.

This Saturday the Portuguese-American community will gather to celebrate their heritage and many positive contributions they have made to America.

Throughout the history of the United States, Portuguese-Americans have had a tremendous impact on the success of our country. From John Philip Sousa, who authored "The Stars and Stripes Forever," to Benjamin Cardozo, a member of the Supreme Court of the United States, to Cardinal and Archbishop Medeiros of Boston, and to our own distinguished colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. POMBO], the Portuguese-American community have helped to make America the great country that it is.

There are approximately 2 million Americans who are of Portuguese descent. The United States Congress today joins them in celebrating their heritage day of Portugal this weekend.

THE PRESIDENT NEEDS TO SHOW LEADERSHIP

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, like another Member who came up earlier today, I want to talk about the President's veto of the rescissions bill.

The President, of course, does not think it is a good bill. I think the bill has problems, too, but obviously not for the same reasons that the President thinks. I do not think it goes far enough. I do not think it shows enough courage.

If you want to talk about saving education programs and saving education, you need to do it back in the States. We left some money in for Goals 2000. I think Goals 2000 needs to be zeroed out. We need to get to a point in this Congress where we believe that our parents and our teachers and our communities are not so stupid that they do not know how to educate their own children.

Let us educate children at home and let Washington bureaucrats worry about what Washington bureaucrats worry about.

The President needs to come forward with some real spending cuts and show some leadership, for a change. That is something he has not done in these first 5 months of Congress, and it is something that he needs to do or else we are not going to be able to balance our budget.

THANKING THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)